

For information only. Parts of this correspondence will have changed since its issue.

Dear Funeral Directors/Arrangers,

This is Covid-19 update number 12. The last update was 15 July 2021.

Use of face coverings in chapels

You should be aware that the use of face coverings is again required at funerals held in chapels. The latest update can be found here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

Please ensure that families are advised to contact mourners to ensure that this guidance is followed.

Other reminders

Limits on the number of mourners in chapels

I wrote to you recently to advise that there is now a limit on the number of mourners permitted in the chapels at Putney Vale. This is not a restriction put in place for the pandemic. 80 mourners are permitted in a chapel to ensure comfort and to allow access in an emergency. We regret that East chapel is still not available for use for funerals or for extra mourners.

Time permitted for services

We are still finding that services are overrunning their permitted times with families having to pay extra charges. When arranging a minister/celebrant etc. or advising families, please ensure that the following is communicated. This is to ensure that other funerals are not affected and to assist in the effective operation of the crematory.

For all services, the service starts at the booked time – not when mourners enter the chapel or are settled.

Reduced rate services (8:30 to 9:30 slots) - Time permitted within the fee is 20 minutes (including entry and exit).

Normal rate services (from 10am) - Time permitted within the fee is 30 minutes (including entry and exit).

Extended services (not available with early rate services) - Allows an additional 45 minutes of service time giving a total 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions on the above, please contact the office or reply to me via email.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the bereavement services team to wish you and your colleagues a lovely Christmas and new year.

Kind regards, Stay safe.

Kelvin.